

the whole front. Part of the sector is known as "Hell's Half Acre." Some of our men and officers have already been through it.

Our camp is located about 7 miles back of the front line, but our work extends up to the front line. This section has been shelled but little. We are within range of the big guns.

The Belgians are good farmers and every bit of land is utilized. Many of them are also very fond of flowers and at my quarters there is a flower garden with some splendid roses, equal to any hot house plants.

*July 11, Thursday.* We had expected to send out 18 platoons of the Regiment on various jobs, but received orders this morning countermanding all that related to the platoons of the 1st Battalion. I moved the Second Battalion at 1 p. m. to its new position. It is divided into five sections, all under Major Lyerly, and with the exception of one platoon, E 4, are working on the East and West Poperinghe trench lines. One camp at the Gaunt Farm is about 4 miles east of our camp. Each side of the camp is the home of a large Observation Balloon.

Colonel Ferguson's auto came in very handy for me, as he took me around to visit the camp sites where my troops were to live and enabled me to see them settled for the night.

The 1st Battalion and Train spent the day cleaning the "Central Camp" and getting settled. The camp was pretty dirty and it was up to us to clean up. Arrangements for officers were poor for a camp of this sort. We finally got a place in which to serve Headquarters officers' meals. Markets here are not very good and we are living for the most part on the straight "British Rations" which includes an allowance of tobacco. We supplemented this ration with eggs (9-10 cents apiece) and milk (20 cents a quart), oranges (10 cents apiece). We are beginning to experience a little of the "Flanders mud." It has rained each day we have been here and the black sticky mud makes it difficult and nasty getting around. It will be fierce this winter.

*July 12, 1918, Friday.* Found there was a mix-up regarding the camp of the five platoons camped at 28/A 19 b 1.8 1.9. The Area Commandment told Major Lyerly that that camp was reserved for the 114th Machine Gun Battalion and that we could not have it. I gave orders to the Major to hold the camp unless he received orders